



Heron Tracks

The Quarterly Newsletter of Seven Ponds Nature Center

VOLUME 58 NUMBER 1 • SPRING EDITION • MARCH—MAY 2025

TAPESTRY

Article & Artwork by Adrianna Allen

During one of our recent school programs, a second grader excited to go inside to see the Discovery Room asked near the end of our hike, “Are we out of nature yet?” This question has been echoing in my head. While I am going about the mundane parts of life, waiting in line at the grocery store or driving my car, I hear, “Are we out of nature yet?”

As a conservation biologist and a naturalist, I am fascinated by this question, so I would like to explore why. To begin, let’s focus on the core component of the study of conservation biology: biodiversity. Biodiversity includes so much more than just the variety of species among all living things. It also refers to the complex interactions between all life, from the way genes are expressed in an individual, to the competition of animals in a local population, to the broad, community effects of all living beings in an ecosystem.

This means that our world is a fragile tapestry made of the many threads of biodiversity relying on each other to achieve a beautifully patterned whole. So if we pull on a loose thread, can you guess what happens? The threads around that thread have a little less stability, and we begin to lose some of the integrity of the design. While a single thread might go largely unnoticed, something different happens when many threads are pulled. A great unraveling occurs.

Many human actions tug at those loose threads. A wetland is filled in for a housing development creating unfiltered runoff with fewer peeps and croaks the next spring. A thread is lost. A multicolor patch of prairie roadside is mowed and made muddy by heavy excavator tires during highway repair, resulting in fewer wildflowers and the caterpillars that relied on them. A thread is lost. A grandmother oak tree is cut down to “improve” a view, removing far more than a single tree; her 200 years as a reliable home and food source for the intertwined lives of birds, raccoons, squirrels, moss, lichen, fungi, and thousands of insects is undone in mere moments. Many threads are lost.

But we don’t personally fill in wetlands or chop down

trees everyday. So, if these actions sound remote and distant from your daily life, I want you to follow the path of a bag of potato chips I was hungrily staring at while waiting in the grocery store checkout line. What resources were used to produce that single bag? Let’s start with the chips themselves. The potatoes were likely grown on a large, monoculture farm, requiring soil, fresh water, and space. They were treated with synthetic fertilizer, which required land clearing for mineral extraction and took energy to produce somewhere else. Some of that fertilizer applied to the field was washed away in the rain, contributing to poorer water quality in the local river. Pesticides and herbicides applied to the potato crop eliminated competing weeds and potato beetles, but also indiscriminately eliminated native plants and numerous insects that were too close to the field. Fossil fuels were burned to harvest those potatoes with machinery that required raw materials to construct. Those potatoes then had to be shipped to a factory somewhere else to be cleaned and processed into chips. Oil, made from plants grown and harvested elsewhere, and salt, mined from somewhere else, were used to fry and flavor the chips. Those chips were then packaged



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Reflections...

Ahhh, spring! After a long, cold winter, spring first teases us with a few (relatively) pleasant days here and there, often interrupted by one or more winter resurgences before finally arriving for good. We shed layers of winter clothing, some of us dressing for weather warmer than the thermometer dictates, but we are ready for spring and sunshine and the coming spectacle.

Spring brings a rebirth in nature. We eagerly welcome the arrival of migrant songbirds from thousands of miles south. We watch as ephemerals bloom and trees leaf out, once again blanketing the forest in a canopy of green. Vernal ponds abound with life, from the chirping, peeping, and croaking of frogs to the wonderful array of small life beneath the water's surface.

Everywhere we look, we see nature renewed. It's a miracle, really. From the depths of winter's silent chill emerges a cacophony of sounds and a palette of colors, reawakening our senses. Life abounds once again! And it feels good for the soul, doesn't it?

I love spring, and I count my springs like a miser counts his coins, each one treasured more than the last. And I sure hope you will also rejoice in the arrival of this magical season and embrace the wonder of it all.

Daryl Bernard
Executive Director



2025 Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 24
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

This year's native plant sale is a separate event from Eco Day and will take place two weeks after that event, on Saturday, May 24.

There will be a large selection of native woodland and prairie flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees available for purchase. Knowledgeable staff and volunteers will be on site to help with any native plant or gardening questions.

If you are interested in the plant list, please contact Seven Ponds closer to the sale date, as we will not have a final list until just prior to the sale.

Heron Tracks

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www.sevenponds.org 810-796-3200

The mission of Seven Ponds Nature Center is to conserve its natural environment as a sanctuary for native plants and animals and to serve as a community resource for environmental education that fosters an understanding, appreciation, and stewardship for our natural world.

Executive Director:
Director of Environmental Education:
Office Manager/Volunteer Coordinator:
Naturalists:
Weekend Receptionist:
Weekday Receptionist/Gift Store Manager:
Maintenance - Buildings & Grounds:

Daryl Bernard
Carrie Spencer
Amy Sadler
Adrianna Allen, Madison Christol
Damian Goidich
Gina Stoldt
Del Hunsinger



in a bag made of aluminum and plastic and coated with the forever chemical PFAS to make the bag oil resistant. Then those chips had to be shipped to the grocery store to end up in front of me, for me to eat in five minutes (okay maybe more like two), after which I threw away the bag where it will end up in a landfill (hopefully) and take so long to decompose that it will outlive me.

I only followed the bare minimum of impact. Each of the steps above can be expanded and expanded into a dizzying tangled web. At every step, we can see an impact on biodiversity, habitats, and the resources that all life relies on. Just because we cannot easily see the connections between the threads as we stand in line at the store does not mean they are not present.

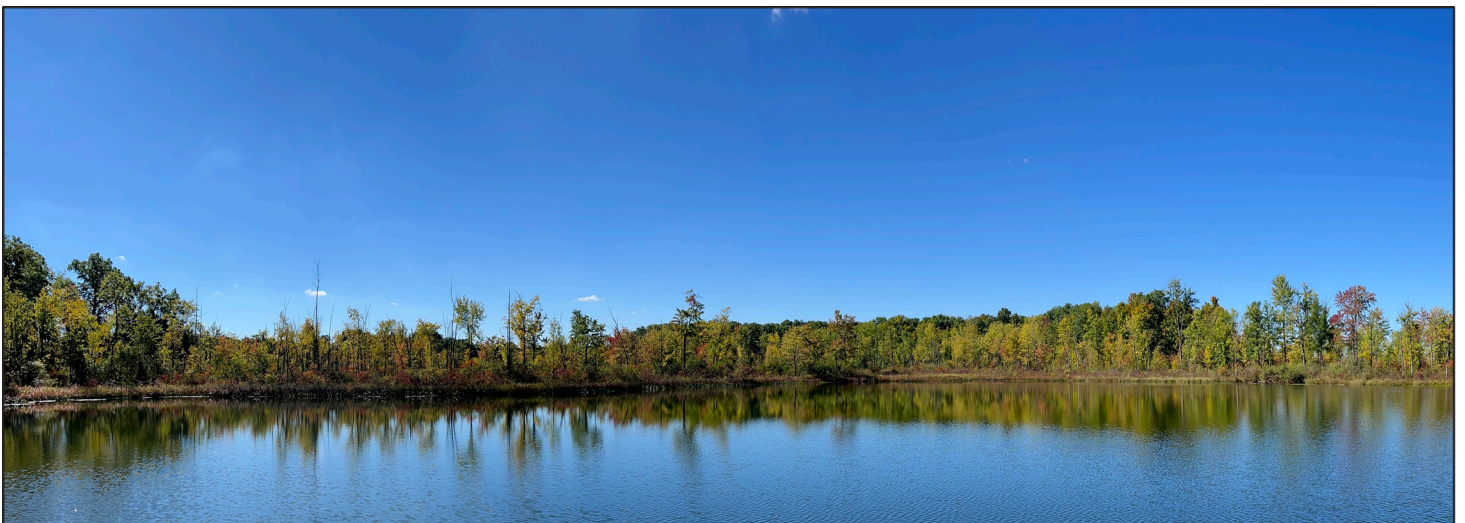
When we allow ourselves to see those connections, it becomes clear that we have let a feral cat with his sharp, untamed claws go crazy on our delicately woven tapestry.

Let's return to the question echoing in my head, "Are we out of nature yet?" The answer is *never*. Everything around us, whether it is "wild" or of human construct, can be traced back to nature. So yes, I consider us to be in nature even when we are inside a city, a building, or our homes. And we

humans are unquestionably a part of that tapestry.

Viewing the world in this connected way can be daunting. It takes mental energy to pause and see the connections. We are often doing our best just to get through the day. *I* am often doing my best just to get through the day. Being a human in a human society can be distracting and tiring. However, while following the pull of our threads can be overwhelming, we have also been gifted an unprecedented opportunity. At no other time in human history has there been a truly global, singular mission. Because the environmental crisis impacts every corner of the planet, we are all given a chance to find that elusive thing many people search for their entire lives: *purpose*. We can all find deep purpose in healing our relationship with nature. Imagine the joy we could find together.

So, I challenge all of us to see the connections where we can. Pause to examine every fungi, lichen, and moss on that fallen stick in your yard. Bear witness to the flight of the tiny spring warblers who innately knew how to find their way to you all the way from South America. Marvel at the distant stars in the night sky. If we are lucky in these moments, we may catch a glimpse of that beautiful pattern of the whole tapestry.



Wandering with the Birds

By Daryl Bernard

This past winter we enjoyed a family get-together in New Mexico. It was the first time that my wife Laura and I and all four of our sons had been together with since Christmas of 2019 – so it was long overdue. Two of my sons live in Albuquerque, and the other two met us there. To be clear: this was not a birding trip. But, of course, every trip is a birding trip, so...

My son Daniel and I managed to get out to some prime birding locations in the region during our stay, including visiting the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park and a few other locations in the city, Embudito Canyon and Embudo Canyon in the foothills of the Sandia Mountains, a drive up to Sandia Crest, and a trip south to Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge and other birding hotspots in that area, all places I had been previously, but was happy to visit again and share with my son.

Despite not birding “full time” during our visit, I did manage to see over 100 species of birds. Many of them were birds that are not found in Michigan, but are residents of the American southwest, such as Gambel’s Quail, Cactus Wren, Canyon Towhee, Greater Roadrunner, Bridled Titmouse (pictured below), Crissal Thrasher, Phainopepla, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and Pyrrhuloxia, among many others.

One of the great things about birding while traveling – particularly when revisiting regions – is the opportunity to meet up with old (feathered) friends. These are birds I don’t get to see very often, kind of like favorite relatives you only get to see every so often. Seeing them again in their native habitat – in the desert scrub, among the cholla cacti, perched atop a canyon boulder – seems to accentuate the pleasure of reacquainting myself with these amazing birds. It’s just another benefit of being out there, wandering with the birds (even if it’s not technically a birding trip!).



Seven Ponds Clubs!

Astronomy Club

Beekeeping Club

Birding Club

Photography Club

Friends of Herbs

Butterfly Gardeners

The Stingers

Visitors are welcome at all club meetings.

For additional information about any of the clubs which meet at Seven Ponds, please visit sevenponds.org.

Wants & Needs!

We are in need of the following items. Can you help us out? Contact the nature center if you are able.

Side-by-side Freezer/Refrigerator

We use this fridge to store food for our live animals as well as to store beef fat for our birds. Must be in good working condition, preferably new.

3/4-ton Pick-up Truck

Our truck has been in service at the nature center since 2002, and although it has always received its regular maintenance, it has seen better days and is no longer road-worthy. We use our truck for plowing the driveway and parking lot and for hauling materials for the nature center. This is a BIG ask, but it can't hurt to ask, right?

Kitchen Remodel

Our nature center kitchen has been stuck in 1973, the year of our first building expansion. It's quaint and retro, for sure, but could really use an upgrade of cupboards, countertops, sink, etc.

Black Oil Sunflower Seed

Help us feed our birds by dropping off a bag or two of sunflower seed.

Seven Ponds Tributes

Memorials, Buy-a-Tree, In Honor

In memory of Helen Bezanson

• Amy Seiferlein

In memory of Mike Champagne

• William Butler

In honor of Nancy & Gerald Buck

• Carol Chenoweth

In memory of William Keller

• Lori Nowicki



Here and There...

Thanks to **Mutch's Hidden Pines** (Lapeer) for the donation of a wonderful Christmas tree for display at the nature center. We appreciate your continued generosity and support!

Thanks to auctioneer-extraordinaire **Brian Rowley** of **Rowley's Auction Services** (Attica) for once again donating his services during our live auction at our Holiday Auction & Christmas Party.

Thanks to the **Seven Ponds Beekeeping Club** and **Seven Ponds Photo Club** for their generous Special Gifts donation.

Thanks to our **Stingers (Friends of Seven Ponds)** for all their work preparing for and helping at our Holiday Auction & Christmas Party.

Thanks to all our **members and supporters** for their donations of items for our silent auction and live auction at our Holiday Auction & Christmas Party. You helped us raise a lot of dollars!

Thanks to **E.G. Nick's** (Lapeer) for providing a keg of beer and to **Rowley's Grocery** (Attica) for loaning us a keg tap for our Holiday Auction & Christmas Party.

Thanks to **Crooked Creek Farms** (Lapeer) for keeping us well stocked with beef suet for our bird feeders. The birds thank you as well, especially on the coldest winter days!

Thanks to our **Secret Santa** - the staff thanks you very much for the wonderful gifts! We appreciate you, Santa!

Volunteer News

On the Trail...

We are thankful for the time spent in service to the nature center by several dedicated volunteers who helped with a variety of tasks this past winter:

- **Claudine Zach** – for consistent help feeding and caring for the critters
- **Marianna Fitzgerald** – for her hard work continuing the library project
- **Bob Albrecht** – for consistent help cleaning and maintaining the fish tank in Critter Corner
- **Michelle Maust** – for running the Pint-Sized Explorers program
- **Abigail McClusky** – for cleaning the discovery room, cleaning the bird feeders, and helping with Wood Duck box maintenance
- **Mike Grappin** – for painting the interior of the farmhouse
- **Board of Directors** – for meetings in December & January

We want to thank everyone who helped make this year's Holiday Auction & Christmas Party one to remember:

- **Marci Stewart, Beth Piatkowski, Dianne Bishop, Mary Frost, Mylene Neal, Paige Bannister, Barbara Holden, Joyce Korson, Darlene Johnson, Senta Masalskis, Julia Raymond and Chris Baker** – for their help with preparation and set up of all the delicious food
- **Friends of Herbs** – for creating the wreath and swags to decorate the nature center
- **Calysta Saxton** – for serving beverages
- **Mike Grappin & Nathan Spencer** – for cleaning up and helping put the nature center back together after the event
- **Nancy Kautz & Anita Spencer** – for their help during silent auction
- **Board of Directors** – for helping with various tasks throughout the evening
- **Potluck Donors** – for providing all of the amazing dinner and dessert dishes

We want to thank our amazing WinterFest volunteers for making this year's event a fun-filled success:

- **Karen Blaszyk and Roseanne Neuhard** – for helping in the craft room
- **Madison Amy and Allen Rosenbalm** – for helping at the s'mores table
- **Allen Rosenbalm and Meryl Johnson** – for monitoring the fire pits
- **Marianna Fitzgerald and Jayme Fields** – for helping with pond dipping
- **Matt Smith and Ike Allen** – for doing the ice cutting
- **Nancy Kautz and Kathy Cole** – for leading the snowshoeing
- **Tom Harpootlian and Veleta Carpenter** – for taking pictures of the event
- **Stephanie Allen** – for helping with set-up, clean up and being a great runner

If you have a heart for service and community, we are always looking for volunteers like you! Please visit the Volunteer page on our website to sign up for the available opportunities we have listed and fill out the Volunteer Interest form. You may also reach out to Amy Sadler at asadler@sevenponds.org or call the nature center at 810-796-3200.

ASSISTANT NATURALIST CLASSES

These classes are open to Assistant Naturalists only. Classes take place on the third Thursday of the month and begin at 3:00 PM. If you would like to become a part of this rewarding program, contact volunteer coordinator Amy Sadler at 810-796-3200 or by email at asadler@sevenponds.org.

Wonderful Wetlands

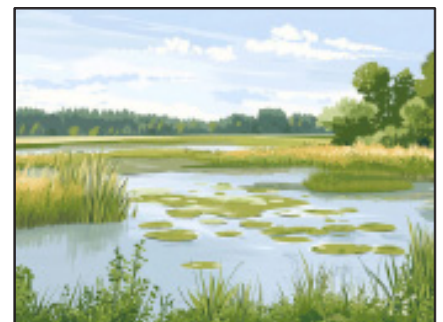
THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 3:00 PM

Pond Exploration

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 3:00 PM

Birding Adventure

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 3:00 PM



Around the Center

Grants & Gifts

The **Lapeer Optimists** came through once again with a donation in the amount of \$6,500 in support of Lapeer area students attending Seven Ponds for educational field trips.

The **Ralph L. and Winifred E. Polk Foundation** made a donation in the amount of \$5,000 to help fund our Miller Pond Boardwalk reconstruction project. Thank you to each of these organizations for their amazing support, not only this year but over many years.

Holiday Auction Recap

In early December we held our annual Holiday Auction & Christmas Party. Just over 130 members and their guests attended the event, which is both a fundraiser and a celebration. The nature center was converted to an auction house and party place, and it sure did seem like folks had a good time! Well over 100 items were claimed during our popular silent auction, where the competitive bidding spirit kicked in just before the final bell rang. At that time we moved into the multi-purpose room, where a nice array of items and experiences were put on the auction block by professional auctioneer Brian Rowley, who once again donated his services for our cause. Special thanks to our wonderful Stingers for all the work they put in to help make the evening a success. When the dust settled, the nature center netted nearly \$17,000 during the evening. Thank you to all who supported the nature center by donating items and attending the event. Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 6, 2025 - we hope to see you there!

Special Gifts Campaign

The final six weeks of 2024 marked our Special Gifts Campaign - an opportunity for members and friends of the nature center to show their support with a monetary gift. This year we set our goal at \$36,000, and we are happy to report that we reached that goal! These dollars help kickstart the next fiscal year, providing critical operating funds to help ensure the nature center's ability to continue fulfilling our mission of connecting people with nature and being responsible stewards of these woods and waters. Thank you to all who supported Seven Ponds during our Special Gifts Campaign.

Critter Corner Giving Tree

Thank you to **Kurt and Susan Meyer, Caroline Buck, Edward Kern, Marianna Fitzgerald, Charlie and Yolanda Turner, Julie Markgraf, Debbie Underhill, Anna Terenzi, Patrice Bono, Dawn Guidry, Madison Christol, Jonathan McDowell** and everyone who donated to the Critter Corner Holiday Giving Tree! Your generous donations help purchase food, equipment, and supplies for our animal friends.

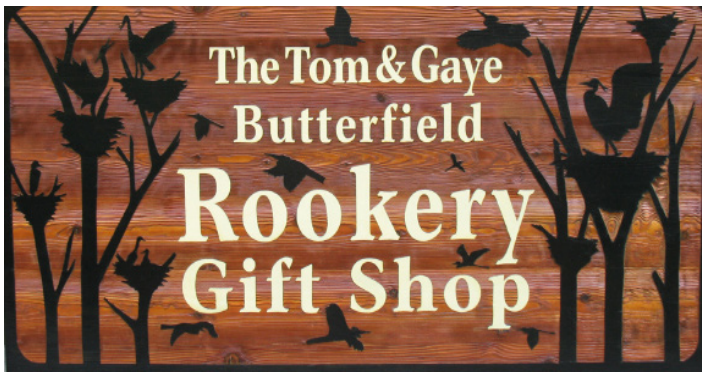
Stingers Rummage Sale

The **Stingers' Annual Rummage Sale** will be held Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, June 12-13-14, 9:00-4:00 at the nature center. A special "members only" pre-sale will take place Saturday, June 7, 9:00-4:00.

ITEMS ARE NEEDED! The Stingers will be accepting items for the sale from March 1 to June 8 during our regular open hours, Tuesday through Sunday, 9:00-5:00. Donations can include clean clothing, household goods, toys, tools, and other items. We cannot accept appliances, television sets, computer equipment, or building materials. All revenue generated by the rummage sale directly benefits the nature center by helping us fulfill our mission.

WinterFest 2025

Wow! We couldn't have asked for a more gorgeous day! WinterFest 2025 was greeted with bright blue skies, a fresh blanket of snow, and agreeable temperatures. Participants were treated to a perfect winter day and enjoyed a variety of fun nature activities. Our ice cutters discovered the result of the previous week's negative temperatures: ten inches of ice on TreeTop Pond! Ice skaters glided around an only slightly bumpy ice rink and watched as a curious bald eagle flew over. Pond dippers searched for signs of invertebrate life in the frigid lake waters. Meanwhile, on the trails, we explored the mysterious life of dormant trees in winter, and snowshoe adventurers around Earl's Prairie witnessed flashes of fur from rabbits and deer. We also enjoyed delicious s'mores over a campfire, creative crafts, a serious snowman building competition, and a tricky scavenger hunt. Thank you to everyone who came out to share the beautiful day with us and to everyone who helped make this event possible! We cannot wait for next year!



THINK GLOBALLY, SHOP LOCALLY

Celebrate Spring with a new pair of Vortex binoculars! The Rookery Gift Shop has a nice selection at the lowest prices Vortex allows. These are great binoculars and they come backed by a lifetime warranty. Imagine what you might see on your next adventure!

Easter is April 20th and we have many fun and educational items for your basket! Don't forget about Mother's Day on May 11th! Wouldn't Mom love a pair of earrings (or binoculars!)? An annual membership to Seven Ponds Nature Center is always an appreciated gift.

This year in the gift shop we will have a different theme each month, based on the National Day Calendar. This is just a fun way to change things up and highlight books and items pertaining to a certain topic. Stop in often to see what we are up to!

The Rookery Gift Shop is open during our normal business hours, Tuesday through Sunday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Purchases made in the Rookery Gift Shop support the nature center, including all of the programs we do and land stewardship we perform. Your purchase dollars help us do good things!



Seven Ponds Nature Center

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Dryden, MI 48428
810-796-3200
www.sevenponds.org

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Spring Programs

March - April - May
2025

Spring has arrived! As the ponds thaw and the forest wakes up from its winter slumber, it's a great time to get outdoors and explore. Seven Ponds offers something for everyone, from preschoolers and families to adults and seniors. Mark your calendar for some programs, walks, and classes. **Space is limited, and all programs require advance registration through our website unless otherwise noted.** Programs are \$3.00 for members and \$5.00 for non-members unless otherwise noted. Visit sevenponds.org to register.

March

Tote Bag Printing

Saturday, March 15, 2:00 PM

Come out and design a reusable nature-themed tote bag! Each participant will use rubber stamps and paint to create a unique bag. These bags are a great way to practice sustainability and you can show off your creation at the grocery store, library, farmer's market, and more! This program is best for participants over the age of 13. Fee: \$10/person. Registration for this program closes on Tuesday, March 11th

Woodland Sprouts Search

Sunday, March 23, 1:00 PM

Whether there's snow, rain, or sun, spring plants are already growing. We will explore our trails in search of everything green.

Michigan's Native & Invasive Species with Gills CISMA

Sunday, March 30, 2:00 PM

Let's learn about the native and invasive species of Michigan! This is a free program and is a collaboration between Seven Ponds Nature Center and our local Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA). Registration required.

Yoga at the Ponds with Peaceful Moon Yoga

Beginners/Basic Yoga Class

Thursdays, March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 6:00-7:00 PM

Unwind, rejuvenate and relax with Cat Minolli and the 'Peaceful Moon' series. These classes are designed for newcomers and beginning yoga students and/or those who wish to become re-acquainted with the practice. Participants will experience the mind-body-spirit connection while learning basic yoga poses in a serene environment. You don't have to be able to touch your toes or twist into a pretzel to participate, however, many postures are done from a seated or prone position on the floor. Participants should wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat or a blanket. Pillows, additional blankets, and any other "creature comforts" are also welcome. Fee is \$15.00 per session or \$50.00 for the 4-week series (March - April).

Board of Directors Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 22, 9:00 a.m.

Members are welcome to attend our Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting this morning. Drop in only.

April

Yoga at the Ponds with Peaceful Moon Yoga

Beginners/Basic Yoga Class

Thursdays, April 3 and 10, 6:00-7:00 PM

See March for program description. Fee: \$15.00 per session.

Vernal Pool Exploration

Saturday, April 5, 10:00 a.m.

It's a busy time for amphibians and invertebrates. Join one of our naturalists as we discover all the forms of life thriving in the vernal pools of Seven Ponds.

Color Walk

Sunday, April 13, 2:00 PM

Let's hit the trails and let the colors of nature guide our way as we explore ponds, fields, forests, and prairie. Drop-ins are welcome.

Earth Day BioBlitz

Saturday & Sunday, April 19 & 20, all day

Help us catalog the amazing biodiversity found at Seven Ponds! Use iNaturalist to join our 2025 Spring BioBlitz project, and add your observations as you hike the trails (self-guided). Unfamiliar with iNaturalist? There will be two opportunities to join our naturalist on an outdoor exploration: Saturday, April 19 at 10:00 a.m. and Sunday, April 20 at 1:00 p.m. Registration required for the naturalist-led events.

Seven Ponds Volunteer Fair

Saturday, April 19, 1:00-4:00 PM

Are you looking for opportunities to give back to your community? Are you looking to meet new people who share your interests in nature and the environment? Seven Ponds will be hosting a Volunteer Fair to give you a chance to check out all the different volunteer and club opportunities available. This is a free event. Drop ins are welcome!

Invasive Species Work Day

Saturday, April 26, 10:00 a.m.

Invasive species are in full swing here at Seven Ponds. This will be a great opportunity for people who are community-minded to come on out and get some volunteer hours! Join our Land Steward as you learn about our invasive plant species, but also help us to manage them. Please bring water; tools and gloves will be provided. Drop-ins are welcome.

Search for Salamanders

Saturday, April 26, 1:00 PM

It's the perfect time of year to look for salamanders! Join us as we look for and learn about some of Michigan's most interesting amphibians. We'll meet at the nature center and carpool over to Jonathan Woods. This program is best for participants over the age of 10. Space is limited.

Family Pond Dipping

Sunday, April 27, 2:00 PM

What lies below the waters of Seven Ponds? We'll use nets and buckets to look for aquatic insects that call the waters home.

May

Yoga at the Ponds with Peaceful Moon Yoga

Beginners/Basic Yoga Class

Thursdays, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 6:00-7:00 PM

See March for program description. Fee is \$15.00 per session or \$50.00 for the 4-week series.

Eyes to the Skies

Sunday, May 4, 9:00 a.m.

Join us for World Migratory Bird Day! We will take a spring birding walk, watching and listening for the return of our feathered friends.

Eco Day

Saturday, May 10, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 PM

See flier insert for details. Registration required.

Beginner Birding Walk

Sunday, May 11, 9:30 a.m.

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a...oh wait, it is a bird after all. Together we will practice our observation skills through a set of binoculars on our quest to spot the birds of Seven Ponds. No experience necessary. Binoculars will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own.

Invasive Species Work Day

Sunday, May 11, 2:00 PM

Invasive species are in full swing here at Seven Ponds. This will be a great opportunity for people who are community minded to come on out and get some volunteer hours! Join our Land Steward as you learn about our invasive plant species, but also help us to manage them. Please bring water; tools and gloves will be provided. Drop-ins are welcome.

Planting for the Future

Saturday, May 17, 1:00 PM

Are you excited to grow more native plants this year? Bring your questions and curiosity and join a naturalist on an exploration of the native plants and gardens of Seven Ponds, and learn how you can incorporate native species in your yard.

Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 24, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 PM

See *Heron Tracks*, page 2 for details. No registration required.

Celestial Skies Over Seven Ponds

Saturday, May 31, 6:30 PM to 11:00 PM

Join the Seven Ponds Astronomy Club for a night of astronomy. The amateur astronomers of Seven Ponds Astronomy Club will guide you, your family, and friends through an exciting evening of celestial fun and enjoyment under the skies at the Seven Ponds Nature Center. This **free** event will take place with clear or cloudy skies, rain or shine. Please see the Astronomy Club on the Seven Ponds Nature Center website's Club tab to RSVP for this event.

June

Paddle the Ponds

Sunday, June 1, 10:00 a.m.

Come along on a naturalist-led canoe paddle. We'll journey on a peaceful paddle watching for fish, turtles, birds, and more! Minimum: 5 years old to ride and 10 years old to paddle. Space is limited.

SPRING BIRD WALKS

Spring is the most exciting season for birders! Our bird walks and trips are open to birders of all skill and experience levels, and beginners are always welcome. Bring your binoculars, your enthusiasm, and be sure to dress for the weather. Bird walks are \$3 for Seven Ponds members and \$5 for non-members. Bird trips are \$5/\$10. Online pre-registration is required, and bird walks are limited to twelve (12) participants. We meet at the destination parking lot at the time indicated.

Spring Bird Trip #1 – Wednesday, March 5, 8:00 am

FISH POINT STATE WILDLIFE AREA

Spring Bird Trip #2 – Wednesday, April 16, 8:00 am

HARSENS ISLAND

Spring Bird Walk – Wednesday, May 14, 7:00 am

SEVEN PONDS NATURE CENTER

Pint-Sized Explorers

For children 1 to 2 years old.

Wednesdays 10:00 – 10:45 AM

Fish

MARCH 12, 2025

Seeds

APRIL 9, 2025

Bugs

MAY 14, 2025

Knee-High Naturalists

For preschool children around 3 or 4 years old.

Fridays 10:00 – 11:30 AM

Water

MARCH 21, 2025

Birds

APRIL 18, 2025

Turtles

MAY 16, 2025

Fee: \$7 for child and caregiver.

Come out and enjoy nature with your child.

All classes include nature fun like walks, crafts, games, stories, snacks, and so much more!

Space is limited. Online registration required.

Nature Study Series for Homeschoolers Spring Sessions

Seven Ponds Nature Center is an ideal outdoor classroom where children can experience nature first hand. In this series of programs, our experienced naturalists guide students toward an awareness and appreciation of our natural world, using hands-on activities, specimens, slide shows, and nature walks. These programs complement state science objectives and focus on specific ecological concepts. Fee: \$4.00 per person. Register for the *Nature Study Series for Homeschoolers* sessions online at sevenponds.org.

TRACKS AND SIGNS

Grades K-2 and Grades 3-6

Wednesday, Mar. 19, 1:00-3:00 PM

Oftentimes, we do not see animals in nature, but they leave many clues behind. We will put on our detective's hats and figure out the clues. Through hands-on activities and nature exploration, learners will discover many tracks and signs of the animals at Seven Ponds.

NATURE'S RHYTHMS

Grades K-2 and Grades 3-6

Wednesday, Apr. 16, 1:00-3:00 PM

How does an animal know when to sleep? Why do frogs sing in the spring? How does a plant know when to flower? Nature is full of natural rhythms, such as the seasons, night and day, and the lunar phases. During this class, we will figure out how these rhythms affect plants and animals and their behaviors.

AQUATIC HABITATS

Grades K-2 and Grades 3-6

Wednesday, May 21, 1:00-3:00 PM

Ponds, lakes, and swamps, oh my! We've got a lot of water around Seven Ponds! Let's see how the animals live in these watery worlds. Through water exploration and hands-on activities, we will discover what adaptations these critters need to thrive in water.

UPCOMING SEVEN PONDS FIELD TOURS

Travel with Seven Ponds for a grand adventure in nature!

NORTH GEORGIA: Waterfalls & Wildflowers **April 6-11, 2025**

*A natural history field tour with
Seven Ponds Nature Center.*

Explore the amazing landscapes of north Georgia with Seven Ponds naturalists.

MOUNTAIN WEST "MOST WANTED" **July 13-20, 2025**

*A birding field tour with
Seven Ponds Nature Center and Pitta Nature Tours.*

Join us as we track down the "Most Wanted" birds in Utah, Wyoming, Nevada, and Idaho.

OREGON BIRDING ADVENTURE **September 15-22, 2025**

*A birding field tour with
Seven Ponds Nature Center and Paradise Birding.*

Enjoy the natural scenic beauty and amazing birds of the Pacific coastline,
temperate rain forest, and Cascade Mountains.

For more information about these exciting field tours, including complete itineraries
and registration details, please see the nature center's website at
www.sevenponds.org/field-tours/